




Beacon Art Project

Public Art Expression
of Interest

Introduction

City of Mount Gambier has a rare and exciting opportunity for Australian artists to submit expressions of interest for the Mount Gambier Beacon Art Project. Emerging, mid-career and established artists are invited to propose 2D or 3D designs for an iconic work of public art for a negotiable location in Mount Gambier CBD. Submissions are encouraged to creatively engage with the diverse cultural and geographic identity of the Limestone Coast to deliver a significant landmark for the region. The successful applicant will understand the power of public art to contribute to the aesthetic improvement and interpretation of the built and natural environment as well as its ability to reflect and build community identity and pride.

The successful proposal will receive a budget of up to \$110,000, with the possibility of scaling up to \$180,000, subject to additional funding being achieved. City of Mount Gambier will work closely with the artist to complete the production and installation of the work within budget.



'Tracks' by Karl Meyer, Exhibition Studios. Mount Gambier Railway Lands

Project context

Located on Boandik country in the heart of South Australia's Limestone Coast, Mount Gambier/Berrin is nestled alongside a dormant volcano, the crater of which forms the Blue Lake/Warwar. Volcanic eruptions have carved a dramatic landscape throughout the Limestone Coast region featuring caves, crater lakes, sinkholes and subterranean aquifer systems. Volcanic soil provides fertile land for agriculture and viticulture – the nearby Coonawarra is globally renowned for high quality wine and beef production.

Industries such as timber, agriculture, viticulture, service, mining and fisheries have flourished in the period following colonisation and Mount Gambier services a growing regional population of 70,000 people.

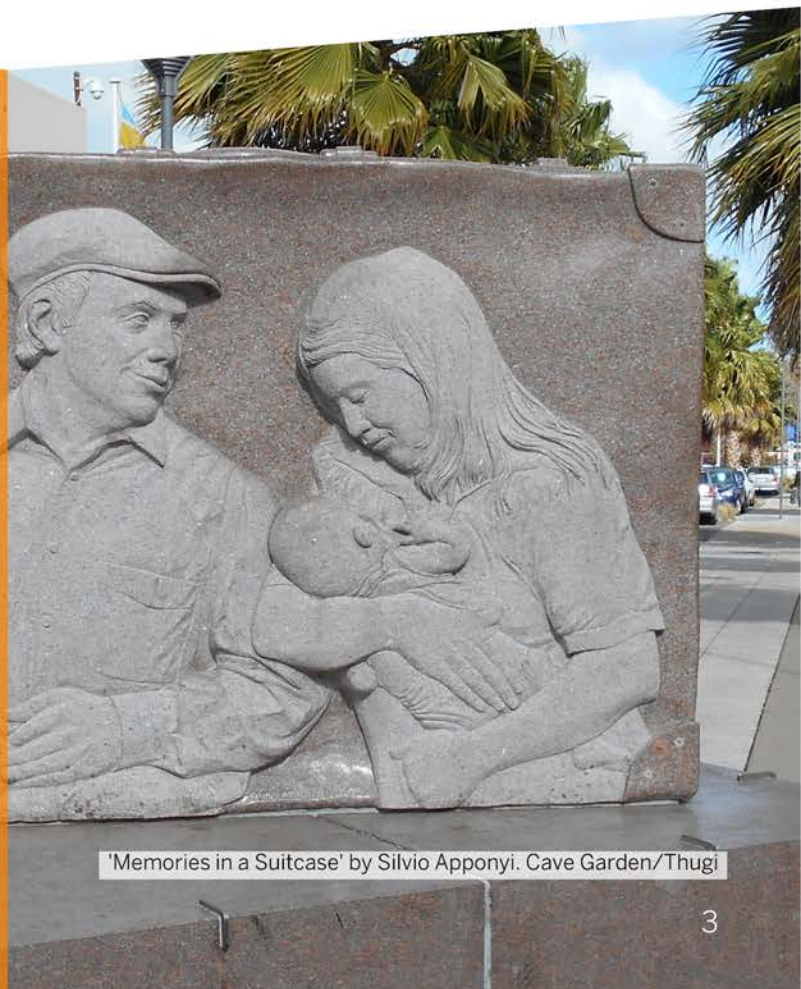
A recent investment in the development of a \$60 million centre, Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre, is indicative of the community's keen interest in sport and wellbeing. Football, netball, cricket, athletics and tennis are popular pastimes amongst locals. Some of Australia's most celebrated athletes including Gavin Wanganeen, Kai Allen and John Tremmeling hail from Mount Gambier. The name Wulanda is derived from the term for 'enjoy or cherish' in Bunganditj language.

Mount Gambier has a rich and thriving cultural and heritage offering, which features The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre and the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre, both of which deliver annual programs of nationally significant exhibitions and performances. Over the years, the City of Mount Gambier has invested in a range of public art. Areas such as the Cave Garden/Thugi and Mount Gambier Railway Lands are home to several large installations and targeted community project funding has assisted in the achievement of an ever-growing collection of murals and other ephemeral artwork throughout the city.

The Beacon Art Project seeks to capture the unique combination of landscape, people and history that forms Mount Gambier's identity and resonates with locals and visitors alike.

Council has committed to a Beacon Art Project as a strategic objective towards placemaking, featuring in the Mount Gambier Public Arts Strategy which incorporates the mission:

'...for public art in Mount Gambier is to facilitate the provision of a rich range of public arts installations and events that bring pleasure, excitement and a proud sense of identity to the citizens of Mount Gambier whilst also bringing curious and appreciative visitors to the city and the environs'.



'Memories in a Suitcase' by Silvio Apponyi. Cave Garden/Thugi

Vision

Whilst considering the background context detailed above, the primary objectives of the Mount Gambier Beacon Art Project are as follows:

1. **Enhance Vibrancy:** To breathe further life into the CBD and create a vibrant atmosphere that encourages community engagement, visitation and fosters a sense of pride in the cultural, geographical and historical identity of Mount Gambier.
2. **Promote Cultural Identity:** To celebrate Mount Gambier's rich cultural and geographic identity.
3. **Provide a unique attraction:** To serve as a landmark and attract both local and regional visitors to the CBD.
4. **Iconic Representation:** The chosen concept should become an iconic symbol of Mount Gambier, embodying the city's unique character.

Budget

The project has an initial budget of \$110,000 with the possibility of scaling up to \$180,000 subject to additional funding being achieved.

The budget should cover all costs, including:

- Design,
- Engineering,
- Site and footing preparations,
- Artist fees, travel, etc,
- Materials, equipment hire and fabrication,
- Transportation/delivery of items to site,
- Public liability insurance (minimum \$20 million), and;
- Installation.

Location

Artists are invited to propose a suitable location within the CBD for their installation(s).

Consideration should be given to the potential impact on foot traffic, visibility and the architectural and geographical context of the proposed location. Several areas of the city have been highlighted by the project team for their potential to align to the broad objectives of the project which can be found in **Attachment A**.

It should be noted that these locations are provided for consideration only and artists are invited to propose any location within the CBD that may align to their vision for the Beacon Art Project. Definition of the borders of the CBD of Mount Gambier can be found in **Attachment B**.

Materials, Standards and Maintenance

Materials and medium are unrestricted for this project and artists are encouraged to consider local industry, history and geography when proposing materials. As a public artwork, consideration of material choices should be made to ensure the artwork is both robust and fit for purpose.

It is anticipated that the artwork would have a life span of up to 30 years and consideration should be made to ensure materials utilised will serve this period and are of low ongoing maintenance.

The following considerations should guide the selection of materials and their designed use:

- 1. Durability:** Materials should be chosen for their ability to withstand the local climate, including exposure to rain, wind, and varying temperatures. They should remain visually striking and structurally sound throughout their intended lifespan. The artwork should be positioned in a way that it cannot be removed by force or will not dislodge over time.
- 2. Low Maintenance:** The chosen materials should require minimal upkeep over the years, reducing the impact of maintenance and ensuring the artwork continues to fulfil its objectives without interruption.
- 3. Sustainability:** Artists are encouraged to explore sustainable materials and practices that align with Council's commitment to environmental responsibility. Sustainable choices can contribute to the longevity of the artwork while reflecting the community's values.
- 4. Safety:** Materials must meet Australian safety standards and building codes to ensure the wellbeing of both visitors and the artwork itself. Anti-graffiti coatings and other protective measures may be considered to preserve the artwork's appearance. Protrusions, entrapment points and sharp edges must be avoided and the artwork must be considered safe at all times of day or night.
- 5. Accessibility:** The design should consider access for maintenance purposes, ensuring that necessary repairs or cleaning can be conducted safely and efficiently.



Development Approval and Heritage or Cultural Considerations

Applicants are reminded of the importance of considering necessary Development Approvals (DAs) and heritage implications when proposing their artwork. This ensures that the proposed artwork complies with local regulations and respects the cultural heritage of the area.

Applicants are encouraged to consider our Traditional Owners and proud Boandik Cultural Heritage within the concept design. Should this be an aspect of a proposal, consultation should be undertaken with Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation in the development of the Expression of Interest and documented in the proposal.

Selection Process

The Mount Gambier Beacon Art Project will be executed in two stages:

Stage 1 - Expression of Interest (EOI):

Interested artists or artist teams are invited to submit an Expression of Interest submission detailing their concept and providing broad detail required to assist in the shortlisting of applications. Further information on the detail required in the EOI is detailed in the 'submission content' section below.

Assessment: Each Expression of Interest is then reviewed by an assessment panel, with the intention of shortlisting at least one proposal to continue to the next stage.

Stage 2 - Detailed Proposal (only required if shortlisted):

Shortlisted artists will be invited to develop a more detailed proposal, including:

- Comprehensive concept drawings, engineering and designs.
- A detailed budget and timeline for project execution.
- Plans for any additional community engagement and involvement.
- An explanation of the materials and techniques to be used.
- Considerations for installation and maintenance.

Shortlisted artists will receive a \$500 fee for their detailed proposal.

Final Artist Selection: The selection panel will evaluate the detailed proposals and select the artist(s) whose proposal best meets the project objectives. The selected artist(s) will then work closely with the City of Mount Gambier to finalise plans and execute the Beacon Art Project.

Artists Responsibility

City of Mount Gambier requires the successful artist to:

1. Manage and deliver the project within the agreed production schedule and budget.
2. Respond to the selected location and how it will be accessed by the public.
3. Work in accordance with best practice community cultural development principles and practices in the consultation, research, creative development, and design.
4. Deliver the project in accordance with an agreed set of project delivery milestones.
5. Hold a public liability insurance policy with a minimum \$20,000,000.
6. Engage a structural engineer to certify the design's material and structural strength. The City of Mount Gambier can provide engineering input via in-house staff if required. Should any additional assistance of Council be required in achieving the project outcome, this should be included in the EOI, detailed proposal and project budget.

Selection Panel and Council Endorsement

An assessment panel comprising of representatives from the City of Mount Gambier and community members will review the EOIs. The panel will evaluate submissions based on the selection criteria detailed within this document.

A shortlist of artists will be presented to Council for endorsement. Once this has been completed, they will proceed to Stage 2.

Key considerations

The EOI should include the following components:

- **Artist's Statement:** A concise statement introducing the artist or team, their background and their artistic philosophy limited to 250 words.
- **Concept Overview:** A brief description of the proposed art installation(s), highlighting how it aligns with the project objectives (vibrancy enhancement, cultural identity promotion, visitor attraction and city icon status) limited to 250 words.
- **Visual Representation:** Preliminary sketches, visualisations or images that illustrate the concept.
- **Location Proposal:** A description of the preferred location within the CBD and an explanation of why this location is suitable for the proposed art installation(s).
- **Budget Estimate:** A considered budget estimate for the proposed project, including anticipated costs for materials, labour, and any other relevant expenses.
- **Curriculum Vitae:** Detailing previous experience and education.
- **Contact Information:** Full contact details of the artist or team lead, including email address and phone number.



'Signalling Change' by Trevor Wren and Danica Gacesa McLean, Mount Gambier Railway Lands.



Selection Criteria

The assessment panel will evaluate EOIs based on the following criteria to determine which artists will proceed to the second stage of the selection process:

- 1. Artistic Excellence (30%):** The quality and innovation of the proposed concept, as evidenced by the artist's portfolio and the visual representation provided in the EOI.
- 2. Alignment with Project Objectives (40%):** The extent to which the proposed installation(s) aligns with the project's vision and brief of responding to the unique geographic and cultural heritage of Mount Gambier, while enhancing vibrancy, promoting local identity, attracting visitors and becoming iconic to the city.
- 3. Feasibility (20%):** The feasibility of the proposed concept in terms of budget, materials, and technical requirements, as well as the suitability of the proposed location.
- 4. Experience (10%):** The artist's or team's experience and track record in successfully completing public art projects of a similar scale and nature.

Reference Documents

The following documents will assist in providing further context to the Beacon Art Project and can be sourced at Council's website - www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au

- CBD Guiding Principles 2022
- Mount Gambier Public Arts Strategy
- Culture and Heritage Plan
- Reconciliation Action Plan

Expression of Interest

EOIs, including all required content detailed above, are to be submitted by no later than 5pm on 30th April 2024.

EOI's can be:

- Received electronically via city@mountgambier.sa.gov.au, or
- Delivered to City of Mount Gambier, 10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier, SA 5290.

Timeline schedule

Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI)	Artists invited to submit EOI in the project	30th April 2024
Assessment of EOI's	EOI's assessed by the Assessment Panel and at least one applicant is shortlisted.	10th May 2024
Approval/Endorsement	EOI documents provided to Council for consideration and endorsement.	21st May 2024
Stage 2: Detailed Proposal (only required if shortlisted):	The selected artist(s) progress with detailed proposal work.	30th May 2024
Approval/Endorsement	Final concepts presented to Council for consideration and endorsement.	18th June 2024
Potential pause to clarify and consolidate funding*		
Fabrication/Creation	Artwork is created/fabricated.	17th June onwards
Installation	Installation is undertaken.	To be negotiated with successful applicant.
Completion	Artwork is complete and launched.	To be negotiated with successful applicant.

**Applicants should consider the value of a negotiated pause after the concept endorsement for the City of Mount Gambier to explore funding opportunities that maximise the work's potential.*

Please note that the proposed timeline may require flexibility based on the unique circumstances of the project, including the complexity of the artwork, any necessary approvals, and the availability of materials and resources.

Regular communication between the selected artist(s), the City of Mount Gambier and relevant stakeholders will be crucial to the successful execution of this public art project.



'Praying Mantis' by Ivo Tadic, Mount Gambier Rail Trail

Project contacts:

All project enquiries should be made by contacting:

Ashleigh Whatling

Director - Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre and Cultural Development

Phone: 08 8721 2555

Email: awhatling@mountgambier.sa.gov.au



ATTACHMENT A

Potential sites for consideration.

It should be noted that these locations are provided for consideration only and artists are welcome to suggest any location within the CBD which may align to their vision for the Beacon Art Project.



1 Commercial Street West Civic Precinct



1 Inc. The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre / Institute / Town Hall.



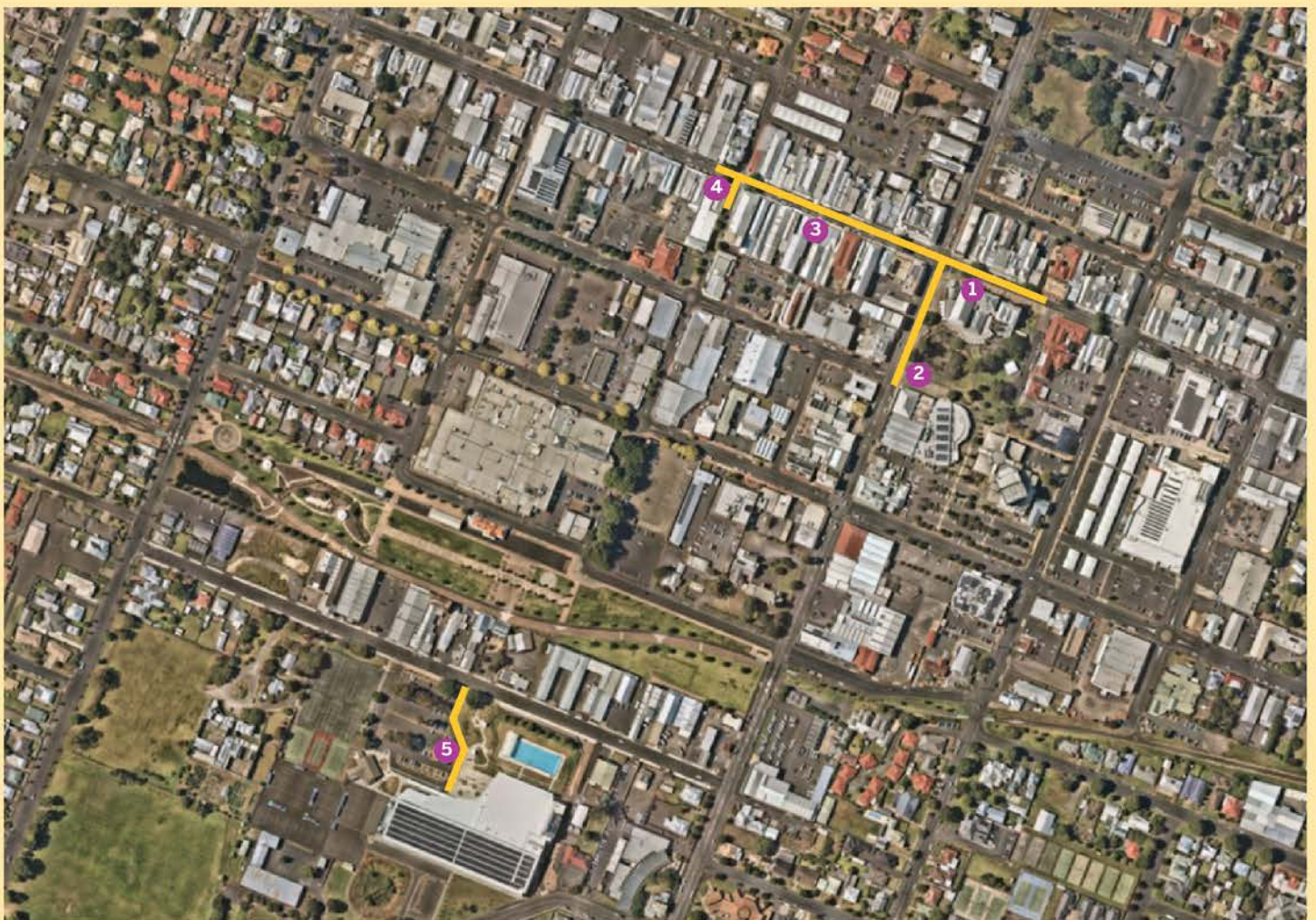
2 Bay Road adjacent Cave Garden/Thugi



2 Bay Road adjacent Cave Garden/Thugi



3 Commerce Arcade and Ripley Arcade laneway entrances



3 Commerce Arcade and Ripley Arcade laneway entrances



4 Gray Street – Pedestrian linkage to Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre



4 Gray Street – Pedestrian linkage to Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre



5 Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre



5 Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre

ATTACHMENT B: CBD MAP

Excerpt from the Mount Gambier CBD Guiding Principles: 'The map below represents the CBD in its darker overlay, taking in to account the planning zone and representing the 'centre' CBD as a conceptual space not strictly aligned to activities or zones but as a target reference to guide principles from a physical space which corresponds to a common perception of the 'CBD'.

It draws on the nature of the long traditional retail strip of Commercial Street and the historical intersection of Commercial Street East and West with Bay Road and Penola Road but also encompasses the City of Mount Gambier cultural and civic precinct including The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre and Mount Gambier Library, City Hall and Institute Buildings as well as the Cave Garden/Thugi and Civic Centre, including the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre.

This space as represented is from Compton Street to the east and Elizabeth Street in the west and from the line equivalent of Percy Street to the north and Helen/Sturt Streets to the south.

The lighter highlight is the widened block outward from Wehl Street in the west to Anthony Street in the east and from Alexander Street in the north to the line equivalent of Margaret Street in the south.

This space draws on the reference considerations of Vansittart Park in the west and the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre in the south, to Frew Park in the north. Again, this is a conceptual idea based on concentrating a perception of the CBD to guide activation strategy and guiding principles to assist in consideration for decision making for the City of Mount Gambier'.

